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-----MEDIA RELEASE-----

**HARTFORD STUDENT AWARDED
\$1,000 COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIP**

(August 23, 2005)--- Mayor Eddie Perez is pleased to announce that Idalia Hernandez of Hartford will receive a \$1000 college scholarship, courtesy of Sallie Mae. The drawing was made today in front of the Municipal Building as part of a higher education workshop.

Mayor Perez says, "Education is the great equalizer in our society. It is important that Hartford residents graduate with a four-year degree to make them competitive for the jobs of the 21st century."

Ms. Hernandez is from Hartford's Frog Hollow neighborhood. She currently is in the adult education program at Mi Casa Family Services. Her goal is to become a lawyer.

Mayor Perez also presented a citation to Sallie Mae for its commitment to higher education and its outreach efforts to Latino families in the Greater Hartford area. Today's workshop is part of a national bus tour so that students and parents can receive important financial aid information.

Mayor Perez wants to increase the number of Hartford students who go on to receive a 4-year college degree by 25-percent. There are 106,000 jobs in the City of Hartford, about half require a Bachelor's Degree or higher.